

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 00849 191128Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 HEW-08 DRC-01

/135 W

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R 160908Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3443

INFO AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0849

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, EGEN, ELAB, PINT

SUBJECT: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION JOHANNESBURG
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF THE JOHANNESBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS HELD AUGUST 13. ATTENDANCE APPROXIMATELY 500. NEW PRESIDENT, DAVID LEWIS, AND OUTGOING PRESIDENT, CYRIL PEARCE, BOTH SPOKE LENGTHILY ON NEED FOR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORM VIS A VIS BLACK COMMUNITY. WHILE PEARCE COVERED NEED FOR HIGHER WAGES, BETTER EDUCATION, MORE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING AND INCREASED INVESTMENT IN HOMELANDS, LEWIS MADE PLEA FOR GREATER SOCIAL AND POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING ACROSS COLOR LINE. LEWIS STATED IN EFFECT THAT TIME FOR TOKENISM AND GIVING LIP SERVICE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF BLACK COMMUNITY IS PAST. NEED NOW IS FOR ACTION. HE QUOTED FSO JAMES BAKER, LATE OF ECON SECTION, AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IN STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT TO WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY IT MAY APPEAR PROGRESS BEING MADE IN MANY AREAS OF BLACK/WHITE RELATIONS, BUT TO BLACK COMMUNITY PROGRESS SEEMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 JOHANN 00849 191128Z

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COMMENT: JOHANNESBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PERHAPS MOST PRESTIGIOUS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION IN REPUBLIC AND HAS REITERATED THEME DEVELOPED BY PEARCE AND LEWIS AT REGULAR INTERVALS AND IN VARIOUS FORUMS OVER PAST TWO/THREE YEARS, AT LEAST. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE AUDIENCE ENTHUSIASM OVER STATEMENTS BY CHAMBER LEADERS, TRANSLATION OF THEMES THIS NATURE INTO ACTION PROGRAMS ARE A GLACIAL PROCESS IN SOUTH AFRICA. NEITHER RAND DAILY MAIL NOR THE JOHANNESBURG STAR IN THEIR EDITIONS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE JCC MEETING GEVE SIGNIFICANT COVERAGE OF THE MEETING OR THE STATEMENTS MADE BY JCC LEADERS ALTHOUGH THERE WAS AMPLE TIME TO DO SO. THIS OMISSION IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IN PAST YEARS BOTH PAPERS HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO THE COVERAGE OF THE ANNUAL JCC MEETING. BUSINESS EDITORS BOTH PAPERS REPORT THAT MEETING OVERSHADOWED BY SAG BUDGET STORIES.

GUTHRIE

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